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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

First Issue

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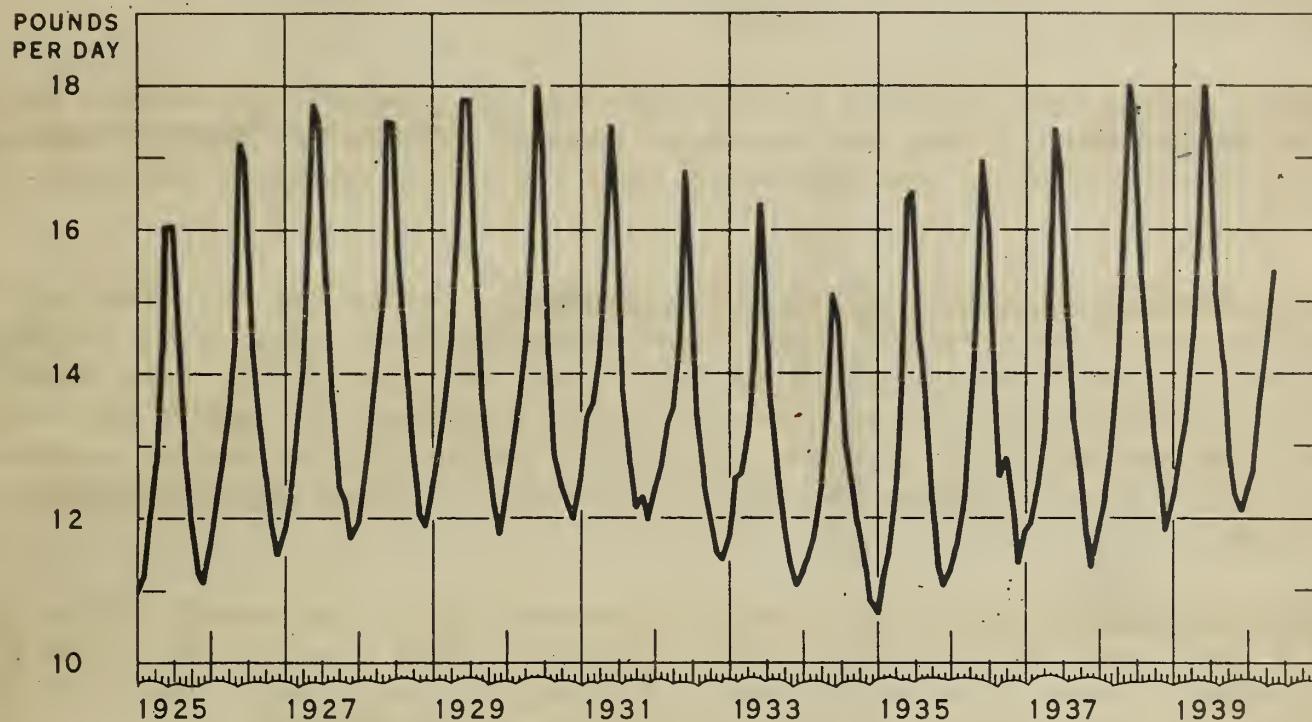
May 15, 1940

DAIRY PRODUCTION

U.S. Department of Agriculture

A monthly report on the production of milk and dairy products and on related factors.

MILK PRODUCTION PER COW AS REPORTED
BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 208 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

About the first of each month some 23,000 crop correspondents, including several picked men in nearly every agricultural county of the United States, report the number of milk cows in their herds and the quantity of milk being secured per day. These records indicate that each year production has risen to a peak in the first or second week in June and then fallen to a low point about the first of December. The yearly averages of these reports show that production per cow rose each year from 1925 to 1929, declined each year until 1934 and then rose again, these changes going far to offset changes in the number of milk cows per capita. The corresponding records for individual States reflect the national trends but also show the effects of the numerous factors which have influenced local production.

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DAIRY PRODUCTION SUMMARY

The quantity of milk produced on farms in April totaled 9.45 billion pounds--about 1 percent more than in April last year -- according to estimates prepared by the Agricultural Marketing Service. Pastures are late in the eastern two-thirds of the country this year, and in many central and eastern sections milk cows were turned out on pasture one to two weeks later than usual. As a result, the seasonal upswing of milk production that comes as the pasture season advances northward was less than normal during April. Supplies of feeds, however, have been ample in all but a few areas and the liberal feeding of grain and concentrates to milk cows resulted in a rather high level of total milk production for the month of April.

Per capita production of milk during April was only slightly higher than in the same month last year but was about 4 percent above the April average in the period 1934-38, which included some years of low early spring production attributable to feed shortages following drought.

Looking ahead, the prospect is for some rather general improvement in pastures during the month, if some dry sections receive rainfall. Pasture improvement would be accompanied by somewhat more than the usual seasonal increase in milk production.

The production of manufactured dairy products, following the trend of milk production, increased less rapidly than usual from March to April and, judging from the reports on butter production to May 9, the effects of the late start of pastures on reducing production were even more important in early May when more of the cows are normally on pasture. Butter production in recent months has been only a little above average but the production of cheese and evaporated milk continues high.

Stocks of dairy products in storage increased more than usual during April, but on May 1 they were only a little above average. Last year at this time stocks were exceptionally heavy because governmental agencies held large stocks of butter, most of which were subsequently distributed to people on relief.

Prices of dairy products showed about the usual seasonal declines in April but reports to May 14 show butter and cheese prices holding close to the April level and the price of milk for city use declining about the same as at this season last year.

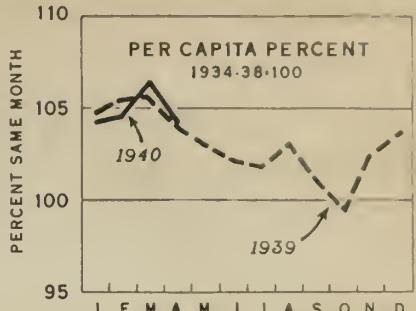
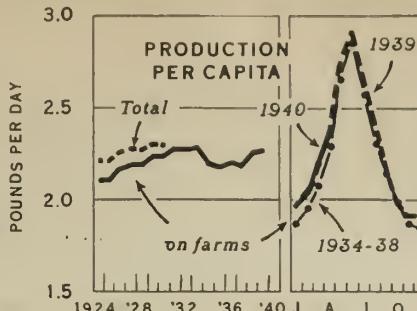
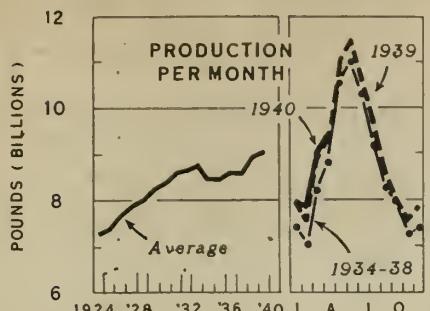
MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES 1934-38 Average, 1939 and 1940

	MONTHLY TOTAL			DAILY AVERAGE PER CAPITA					
	1934-38	Average	1939	1940	1934-38	Average	1939	1940	
			(Million pounds)				(Pounds)		
January	7,422	7,935	7,961		1.870	1.957	1.949		
February	7,044	7,534	7,791		1.950	2,056	2,038		
March	8,221	8,869	9,006		2,069	2,185	2,202		
April	8,809	9,347	9,447		2,290	2,379	2,386		
May	10,537	11,084			2,649	2,728			
June	10,996	11,464			2,855	2,914			
July	10,266	10,671			2,578	2,623			
August	9,194	9,672			2,307	2,376			
September	8,262	8,533			2,141	2,165			
October	7,942	8,077			1.990	1.981			
November	7,227	7,556			1.870	1.914			
December	7,383	7,816			1.847	1.915			

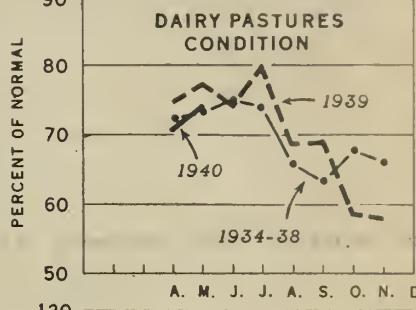
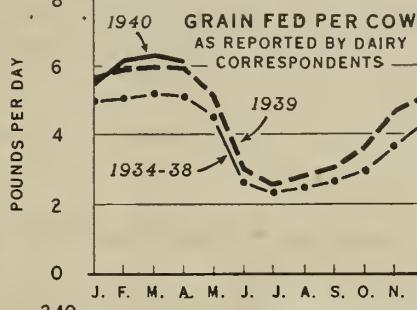
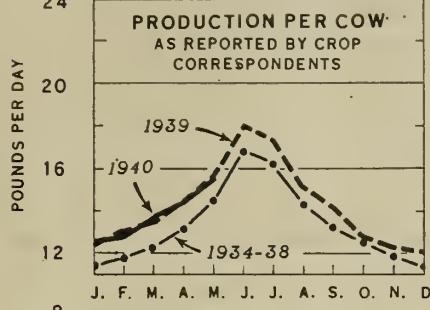
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DAIRY PRODUCTION: GRAPHIC SUMMARY FOR THE UNITED STATES

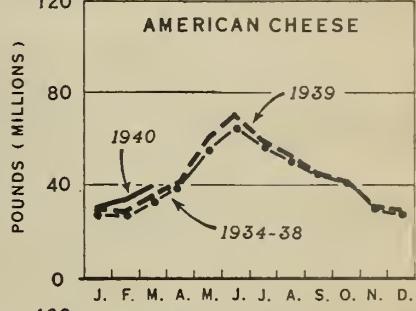
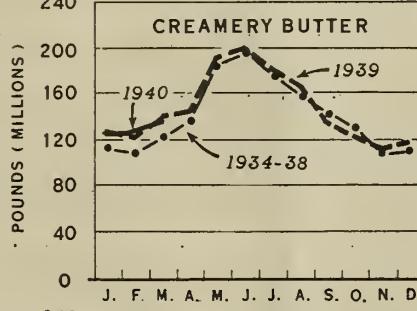
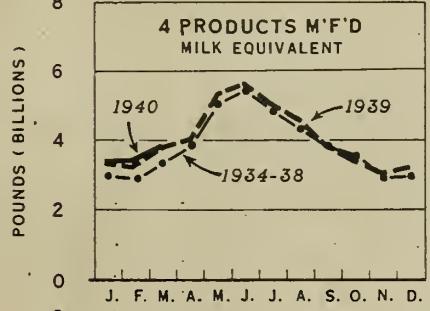
MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS



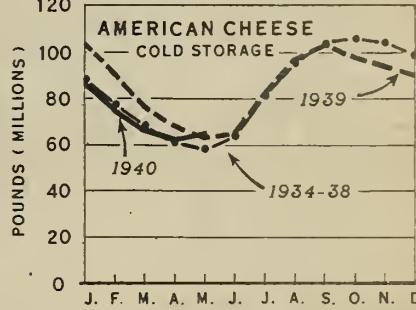
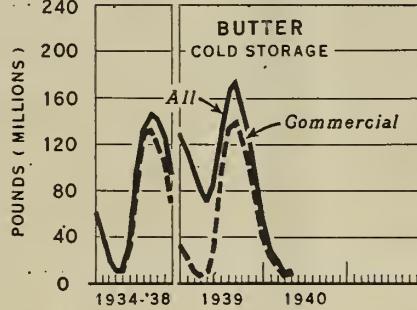
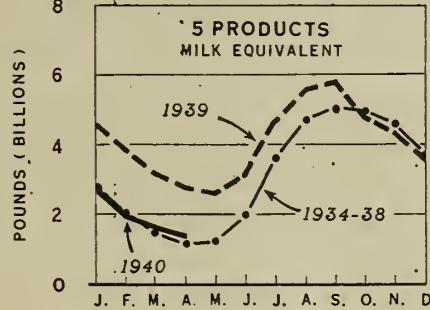
MILK PRODUCTION FACTORS



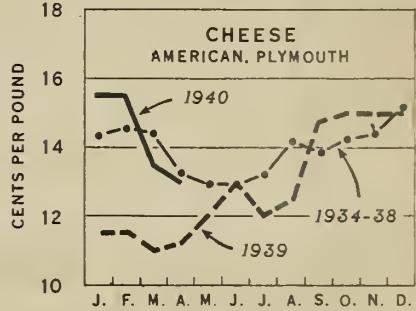
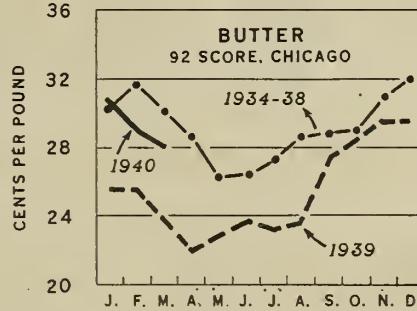
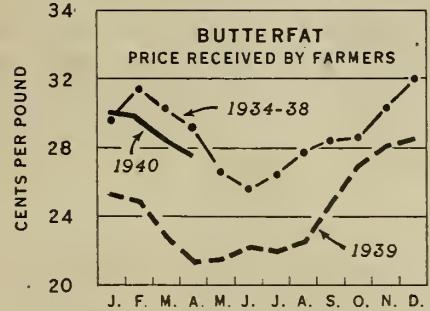
DAIRY PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED



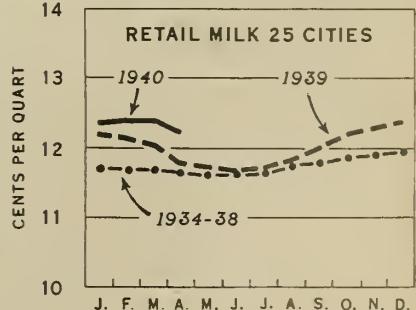
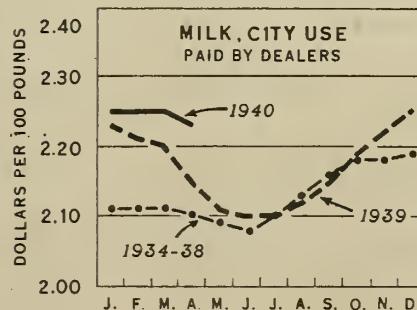
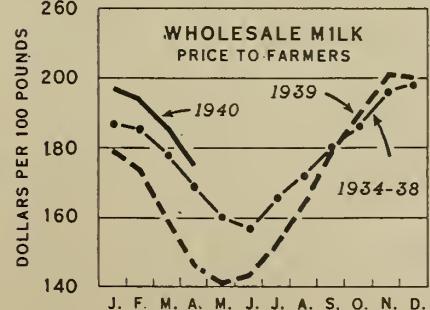
STOCKS



PRICES



PRICE OF MILK



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Dairy Production

May 15, 1940

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED STATES

			:Average:	: 1940
			: 1934-38: 1939	: Total :Percent
			: : : or avg.	: of 1939
MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS				
Total, per month.....	mil.lbs.	Feb. ^c /	7,044 : 7,534	: 7,791a/ :103.4
		Mar.	8,221 : 8,869	: 9,006a/ :101.5
		Apr.	8,809 : 9,347	: 9,447a/ :101.1
Per capita, daily average.....	lbs.	Mar.	2.069 : 2.185	: 2.202a/ :100.8
		Apr.	2.290 : 2.379	: 2.386a/ :100.3
Per cow, per day.....	lbs.	Mar. 1	12.18 : 13.40	: 13.62 :101.6
(As reported by crop correspondents)		Apr. 1	13.11 : 14.51	: 14.45 : 99.6
		May 1	14.45 : 15.63	: 15.42 : 98.7
DAIRY PASTURES: Condition, % of normal	%	May 1	73.2 : 77.5	: 74.0 : 95.5
PRODUCTION OF MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS				
Creamery butter, monthly.....	mil.lbs.	Mar.	121.8 : 139.1a/	: 136.6a/ : 98.2
		Apr.	135.7 : 144.7a/	: 144.0a/ : 99.5
weekly.....	week ending	May 2	-- : --	: -- : 98.7
		May 9	-- : --	: -- : 93.7
American cheese.....	mil.lbs.	Mar.	32.0 : 34.9a/	: 39.6a/ :113.5
		Apr.	38.4 : 41.2a/	: 46.8a/ :113.6
Evaporated milk, case.....	mil.lbs.	Feb. ^c /	118.2 : 139.7a/	: 170.4a/ :122.0
		Mar.	149.3 : 183.4a/	: 203.6a/ :111.0
4 products, milk equivalent.....	mil.lbs.	Feb. ^c /	2,887 : 3,250	: 3,443 :105.9
(Creamery butter x 21, all cheese except skim x 10, canned cond. & evap. milk x 2.2)		Mar.	3,340 : 3,806	: 3,855 :101.3
		Apr.	3,767 : 4,036	: -- :102.7b/
STOCKS ON HAND				
Butter in cold storage.....	mil.lbs.	Apr. 1	9.5 : 78.9	: 8.9 : 11.3
(Including government holdings)		May 1	9.8 : 70.9	: 9.5a/ : 13.4
Commercial holdings, only.....		May 1	9.4 : 8.9	: 8.2a/ : 92.1
American cheese.....	mil.lbs.	Apr. 1	61.4 : 68.8	: 61.5 : 89.4
(Cold storage holdings)		May 1	58.2 : 62.9	: 65.2a/ :103.7
Evaporated milk, case.....	mil.lbs.	Mar. 1	99.4 : 120.4	: 150.5 :125.0
(Manufacturers' stocks)		Apr. 1	91.6 : 109.9	: 173.4 :157.8
5 products, milk equivalent.....	mil.lbs.	Mar. 1	1,462 : 3,210	: 1,600 : 49.8
(Butter, all cheese, canned cond. & evap. milk plus cream in cold storage)		Apr. 1	1,163 : 2,776	: 1,367 : 49.2
		May 1	1,206 : 2,608	: 1,482b/ : 56.8
PRICES				
Butterfat, per pound.....	cts.	Mar. 15	30.2 : 22.7	: 28.4 :125.1
(Prices received by farmers)		Apr. 15	29.2 : 21.4	: 27.5 :128.5
Butter, wholesale, per pound.....	cts.	Apr.	28.6 : 22.0	: 27.1 :123.2
(92 score, Chicago)		May	26.3 : 22.8	: 27.0d/ : 118.4
American cheese, wholesale, per pound.....	cts.	Apr. 15	13.25 : 11.25	: 13.00 :115.6
(Twins, Plymouth, Wisconsin)		May 15	12.95 : 12.00	: 13.00d/ :108.3
Evaporated milk, wholesale, per case.....	dol.	Mar.	2.84 : 2.68	: 2.90 :108.2
(U. S. Average)		Apr.	2.84 : 2.67	: -- : --
Milk, wholesale, per 100 pounds.....	dol.	Mar. 15	1.78 : 1.59	: 1.84 :115.7
(All purpose, prices received by farmers)		Apr. 15	1.69 : 1.46	: 1.75a/ :119.9
Milk for city distribution, per 100 pounds	dol.	Apr.	2.10 : 2.15	: 2.23 :103.7
(Prices paid by dealers, 3.5% basis)		May	2.09 : 2.11	: 2.18d/ :103.3
Milk, retail, delivered, per quart.....	cts.	Apr.	11.64 : 11.78	: 12.20 :103.6
(Average, 25 markets)		May	11.61 : 11.72	: 12.06a/ :102.9

a/ Preliminary. b/ Forecast or interpolation. c/ Affected by leap year.

d/ Not available when accompanying chart was prepared. e/ Latest available price.

Milk production per cow increased only about three-fourths as rapidly as usual during April this year and on May 1 averaged 15.42 pounds in herds kept by crop correspondents. This was about 1 percent short of production per cow on May 1 last year, but exceeded the 1939-38 average for the date of 14.82 pounds by some 4 percent.

In the northern part of the country east of the Rocky Mountains production per cow, although increasing less rapidly than usual, was still well above average on May 1. In all the important dairy States of the Great Lakes region except Ohio and Indiana and in a number of other States including Iowa and Maryland production per cow was 4 percent or more above the 10-year average for May 1. In the western group of States excellent pastures have materially aided milk flow, with production per cow in 4 of the 11 States at record high levels for May 1, and in 5 other States of this group closely approaching previous highs.

In the South Central States, however, where pastures were nipped by late frosts and retarded by cool weather, milk production per cow continued well below average through April, and in States bordering on the lower Mississippi production per cow on May 1 approached 15 year lows for the date. In scattered Eastern States, particularly Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and the Virginias, production per cow was likewise well below average for May 1.

Grain fed per milk cow on May 1 this year was the highest for the date in the 10 years for which records are available, according to reports received from dairy correspondents. In these herds, which are somewhat larger and more specialized than the average milking herd, milk cows on May 1 were fed an average of 5.43 pounds of grain and concentrates per head, compared with 5.15 pounds a year earlier. In the previous 8 years the May 1 rate of feeding has ranged from 3.99 pounds in 1935 when feed was still scarce following the 1934 drought, up to 5.20 pounds in 1931 when feed prices had dropped sharply. The heavy rate of feeding this year is partly a reflection of the lack of green feed usually available in some States by May 1, but it also reflects a willingness of farmers to feed the fairly abundant supplies of feed grains on farms even though prices of feed grains are considerably higher than a year ago and prices of butterfat are somewhat less than average in relation to those for feed grain.

Grain fed per milk cow per day on May 1
in herds kept by dairy correspondents

May 1	States	East Pounds	West Pounds	South Pounds	South Pounds	Western Pounds	United States Pounds
1931		7.0	5.6	5.7	4.7	3.8	3.2
1932		6.3	5.6	4.8	4.4	3.8	2.8
1933		5.7	5.8	5.7	3.9	3.4	3.0
1934		6.0	4.9	4.4	4.6	3.3	2.2
1935		6.0	4.4	3.4	4.4	3.4	2.8
1936		6.1	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.3	3.2
1937		6.2	4.8	3.4	5.5	3.9	3.2
1938		6.3	5.5	4.7	4.7	4.2	3.2
1939		6.2	5.7	5.3	5.8	4.3	3.1
1940		6.8	6.4	5.5	5.4	4.3	3.1

Dairy Pastures west of the Rocky Mountains have furnished excellent grazing this spring, but in the eastern two-thirds of the country grass has been delayed by cool weather and milk cows have received less than the usual amount of green feed from pastures. For the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures including only States where cows are usually on pasture by May 1, averaged 74 percent of normal compared with 78 percent a year ago and a 1929-38 average of 75.3 percent. But moisture supplies are ample in most sections and pastures are expected to improve rapidly in the next few weeks.

In some important dairy sections of the North Atlantic area, particularly northern Pennsylvania and New York, the late start of pastures this spring has lengthened the winter feeding period and accentuated the problem of feed shortage following last year's drought. In part of this area hay prices are sharply higher. In Wisconsin and Michigan dry weather this spring has held back early pastures but precipitation since the first of May has been beneficial.

Milk cows on May 1 this year obtained the smallest proportion of their feed from pasture for that date since 1936, and except for that year the lowest for May 1 in the 10 years of record, according to reports received from dairy correspondents. For the country as a whole, milk cows obtained an average of 33 percent of their May 1 feed from pasture, compared with 35 percent a year ago and a range of 32 percent to 47 percent on May 1 in the preceding 8 years.

Percentage of Feed of Milk Cows Secured from Pasture on May 1 as Reported by Dairy Correspondents							
Date	North Atlantic	North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western States	United States	Percent
May 1	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1931	4.8	26.5	37.8	50.5	75.0	44.8	38.5
1932	2.4	14.5	39.1	43.1	69.2	54.2	35.1
1933	6.7	18.0	28.5	51.2	66.2	40.1	32.9
1934	4.6	18.2	31.9	43.2	71.3	61.3	36.0
1935	5.1	26.2	41.1	57.0	74.0	48.2	41.3
1936	3.5	13.2	30.4	43.1	63.4	49.0	32.3
1937	3.4	17.7	38.9	47.0	72.6	41.8	36.8
1938	11.8	31.8	48.6	61.1	77.1	53.7	46.6
1939	2.4	15.7	36.5	46.0	65.4	59.3	35.4
1940	2.3	11.9	30.3	44.5	65.2	60.0	32.7

In the South, the low percentage reported this year reflects the damage done to pasture crops by the mid-April frosts and the general slow development of grazing crops as a result of cool weather. In the belt of States extending from Iowa eastward through Ohio, where milk cows on May 1 usually receive a third to a half of their feed from pasture, the percentage obtained this year averaged the lowest in the last 10 years. In the northern dairy States pastures on May 1 were furnishing practically no feed. In the Western States, however, the early spring with abundant moisture favored the growth of grass and milk cows on May 1 obtained 60 percent of their feed from pasture -- more than on that date in any recent year except 1934.

DAIRY PRODUCTION

State	Milk Produced per Milk Cow in Herds Kept by Reporters ^{1/}			Condition of Dairy Pastures ^{2/}		
	May 1 Av. 1929-38	May 1 1939	May 1 1940	May 1 Av. 1929-38	May 1 1939	May 1 1940
	Pounds			Percent		
Me.	14.5	15.0	14.2	84.0	78	84
N.H.	15.2	14.1	14.5	84.0	80	84
Vt.	15.7	16.4	16.9	86.6	79	85
Mass.	18.6	18.6	19.5	84.4	87	82
R.I.	3/	3/	3/	79.9	74	76
Conn.	17.9	18.4	18.6	83.1	83	80
N.Y.	18.9	19.5	20.3	77.3	79	71
N.J.	20.2	19.9	19.5	79.5	80	70
Pa.	17.9	17.9	18.6	77.3	81	72
N.Atl.	18.02	18.47	18.76	78.7	80.4	73.5
Ohio	16.4	16.6	16.6	76.5	80	73
Ind.	15.3	15.6	15.5	77.0	81	76
Ill.	15.9	16.3	16.5	76.1	81	77
Mich.	18.3	19.0	19.1	71.1	80	70
Wis.	18.4	18.6	19.4	75.1	81	73
E.N.Cent.	17.24	17.57	17.95	75.5	80.7	74.0
Minn.	17.6	18.8	18.5	70.5	77	70
Iowa	15.3	16.8	16.4	76.3	80	78
Mo.	11.4	11.9	11.4	74.6	80	73
N.Dak.	13.0	15.1	15.8	56.2	61	63
S.Dak.	12.7	14.0	13.5	66.3	63	70
Nebr.	14.9	16.1	15.2	73.3	70	64
Kans.	15.4	16.7	14.9	66.9	69	62
W.N.Cent.	14.58	15.93	15.33	71.7	74.9	70.4
Del.	3/	3/	3/	75.7	84	74
Md.	14.9	17.2	16.1	75.4	85	71
Va.	11.4	11.5	11.0	77.7	83	69
W.Va.	11.3	10.9	10.1	75.8	75	69
N.C.	11.3	12.2	12.3	78.7	80	72
S.C.	9.8	10.7	9.8	71.9	76	65
Ga.	9.0	10.1	9.1	77.4	79	68
Fla.	3/	3/	3/	76.4	75	76
S.Atl.	10.98	11.90	11.32	76.7	80.1	69.9
Ky.	11.9	11.7	10.8	77.7	80	70
Tenn.	10.8	11.7	10.3	77.6	79	67
Ala.	3/	3/	3/	76.6	80	68
Miss.	8.6	8.1	6.6	76.9	78	69
Ark.	10.0	10.3	9.2	79.5	80	76
La.	3/	3/	3/	77.3	80	79
Okla.	12.6	13.7	11.9	67.6	69	66
Tex.	10.6	10.1	10.3	73.6	66	72
S.Cent.	10.61	10.87	9.97	74.9	74.4	70.0
Mont.	14.3	18.0	15.9	71.0	81	87
Idaho	18.0	20.0	21.2	81.9	82	94
Wyo.	12.7	14.3	14.5	78.9	81	84
Colo.	14.1	16.0	16.1	69.6	83	73
N.Mex.	3/	3/	3/	67.8	86	80
Ariz.	3/	3/	3/	87.9	86	79
Utah	3/	3/	3/	79.2	79	89
Nev.	3/	3/	3/	82.2	86	95
Wash.	19.3	21.2	22.0	77.6	79	94
Oreg.	18.6	20.1	21.1	81.6	78	95
Calif.	21.1	21.3	22.0	78.5	67	92
West.	16.75	19.09	19.47	78.2	75.2	90.7
U.S.	14.82	15.63	15.42	75.3	77.5	74.0

^{1/} Averages represent the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds. Figures for New England are based on combined returns from Crop and Special Dairy reporters and are weighted by counties. Figures for other States, regions, and U. S. are based on returns from Crop Reporters only.

^{2/} State averages are based on reports by crop correspondents. For regional and U.S. averages the States are combined in proportion to the importance of pastures to dairy production on May 1.

^{3/} State averages omitted because of instability, but reports are included in arriving at regional averages.

DAIRY PRODUCTION INDICATIONS AND THEIR USE

Just as a five word warning - "Hurricane moving north from Bermuda" may carry an important, but a different, message to the navigators of each of a thousand ships so there are records in the dairy industry which are important alike to producers, processors and distributors, but which carry a different message to each man. As a hurricane means east winds in one area and west winds in another, and head winds or tail winds, according to the direction in which the ship is headed, so a drought like that of 1936 may compel farmers in one area to reduce the rations of the cows close to a bare subsistence level, while giving farmers in another area an unprecedented opportunity to push their cows to the limit with imported grain.

Though a weather man, watching reports from ships at sea and remembering records of past storms, may make a helpful estimate of the rate at which a hurricane is moving and may hazard a guess at where it will strike, each navigator must make his own calculations and sail his own ship. Those preparing dairy statistics, to make them timely, likewise include some forecasts, and each user of these statistics must figure his own position, ^{and} decide for himself whether the signs call for full sail or suggest seeking the shelter of a port.

As space in these pages permits, the various dairy indications assembled in this report will be explained and suggestions will be offered to show how the statistics may be used to meet individual needs.

Milk Production Per Cow as Reported by Crop Correspondents.

These records show the amount of milk that crop correspondents obtain from their milk cows on one day near the first of each month. They provide a quick measurement of changes in the rate of production. For areas where commercial dairying is important, they appear to be quite accurate, though allowance must be made for changes in the number of milk cows. The table showing averages by States serves like a weather map to show current conditions in each part of the country. It shows the net result of all favorable and unfavorable factors affecting production per cow including weather conditions, pastures ^{and} gradual changes in the proportion of the cows of each age and breed. It also indicates the constant adjustments being made in feeding, in care, in the age at which the calves are weaned, and in the proportion of the cows freshening in each season.

The averages shown for the various States and regions are computed by adding the reports from crop correspondents on gallons or pounds of milk produced on their farms on or about the first of each month and dividing by the number of milk cows (in milk or dry) reported as on their farms. Averages for the various regions are combined in proportion to the number of milk cows in each. The averages for the important dairy States are based on reports for large numbers of cows. Those for States where dairying is unimportant probably provide only a very rough indication of the changes taking place, but they supply about the only information available on the total milk production as distinct from commercial supplies.

Crop correspondents as a group do not include enough part time farmers, croppers, beginners, subsistence farmers, colored farmers, etc., to be strictly typical of all farmers. They appear to be more nearly typical of commercial farmers, or of those producing some dairy products for sale. During recent years the crop correspondents who have reported on milk production have had an average of between seven and eight milk cows apiece, the State averages ordinarily ranging from above 20 cows per farm in Vermont to under 4 in the Carolinas and Georgia.